

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 (cancelled). Please cancel Claims 1-8 without prejudice, and rewrite same below as new Claims 9-20.

Claim 9 (new): A locking fondue assembly, comprising:

A locking fondue assembly comprising:

a pot assembly;

said pot assembly including a pot body and a pot lid;

snap lock first means at a top of said pot body for releasably securing said pot lid to said pot body;

a plurality of pot feet extending away from said pot body opposite said top of said pot body;

a stand assembly;

locking second means for detachably securing said pot assembly to said stand assembly;

said locking second means providing a rotational engagement between said plurality of pot feet and said stand assembly when said pot body is rotated in a locking direction, and also providing a rotational disengagement of said plurality of pot feet when said pot body is rotated in an opposing unlocking direction; and

a burner assembly in said stand assembly opposite said pot assembly;

whereby said locking fondue assembly prevents unintended separation and increases safety during a use thereof.

Claim 10 (new): A locking fondue assembly, according to Claim 9, wherein:

said pot feet extend radially away from said pot body;

Claim 11 (new): A locking fondue assembly, according to Claim 9, wherein:

said stand assembly includes a stand base spaced from a stand top by a plurality of stand legs.

Claim 12 (new): A locking fondue assembly, according to Claim 9, wherein:

said snap lock first means and said locking second means prevent unintended separation of said locking fondue assembly by interlocking said pot assembly with both said stand assembly and said burner assembly.

Claim 13 (new): A locking fondue assembly, according to Claim 9, wherein:

said burner assembly includes a burner cup and a burner receptacle; and

third means for elastically securing said burner cup in said burner receptacle, so that said burner cup is positioned coaxially to a central axis of both said pot assembly and said stand assembly.

Claim 14 (new): A locking fondue assembly, according to Claim 13, wherein:

said plurality of pot feet are spaced apart from both a bottom of said pot body and from said burner assembly;

said burner assembly including a burner cover on said burner cup;

said burner cover having a burner handle extending away from said central axis; and

said burner cover shielding said plurality of pot feet during said use thereof, so that said plurality of pot feet remain at a temperature suitable for placement on a work surface during a disengagement of said pot assembly from said stand assembly.

Claim 15 (new): A locking fondue assembly, according to Claim 14, further comprising:

a burner snap lock assembly in said third means for elastically securing;

a burner cup edge extending from a bottom portion of said burner cup; and

said burner snap lock assembly elastically engaging said burner cup edge during said use thereof, thereby elastically retaining said burner cup in said burner receptacle during said use thereof and thus preventing unintended burner cup separation from said stand assembly.

Claim 16 (new): A locking fondue assembly, according to Claim 9, wherein:

said locking second means includes a stand top and a stand cover plate;

said stand top and said stand cover plate being joined coaxially along a center axis of both said pot assembly and said stand assembly;

a plurality of first pot feet rotation guides being provided on said stand cover plate;

a plurality of second pot feet rotation guides being provided on said stand top;

a stop tab extending parallel to said central axis from each of said first pot feet rotation guides;

a stand top locking mechanism extending from each of said second pot feet rotation guides; and

each of said pot feet respectively engaging at least one of said stand top locking mechanism and said stop tab during said use thereof, as said pot body is being rotated in said locking direction, so that said plurality of pot feet lockably engage with at least one of stand top and said stand cover plate, and thus positively link said pot assembly with said stand assembly.

Claim 17 (new): A locking fondue assembly, according to Claim 16, wherein:

each of said stand top locking mechanisms include at least a sloped portion, a flat portion, and an edge portion, so that during said use thereof, as said pot body is being rotated in said locking direction, said pot feet

slidably engage respective ones of said sloped portions and draw said pot assembly tightly to said stand assembly.

Claim 18 (new): A locking fondue assembly, according to Claim 9, further comprising:

at least one pot lid spring member extending from said pot lid in said snap lock first means; and

said at least one pot lid spring member elastically engaging said top of said pot body, so that said pot lid is elastically retained in said pot assembly during said use thereof.

Claim 19 (new): A locking fondue assembly, according to Claim 18, further comprising:

a pot lid opening in said pot lid;

said pot lid opening being coaxial to a central axis of both said pot assembly and said stand assembly;

a plurality of fork slots being radially arrayed about said pot lid opening relative to said central axis; and

during said use thereof, said locking fondue assembly permits at least one external fork member to be inserted through said pot lid opening and be removably retained therein by one of said plurality of fork slots.

Claim 20 (new): A locking fondue assembly, comprising:

a pot assembly;

said pot assembly including a pot body and a pot lid;

snap lock first means at a top of said pot body for releasably securing said pot lid to said pot body;

a plurality of pot feet extending radially away from said pot body opposite said top of said pot body;

a stand assembly;

said stand assembly including a stand base spaced from a stand top by a plurality of stand legs;

locking second means for detachably securing said pot assembly to said stand assembly;

said locking second means providing a rotational engagement between said plurality of pot feet and said stand assembly when said pot body is rotated in a locking direction, and also providing a rotational disengagement of said plurality of pot feet when said pot body is rotated in an opposing unlocking direction;

a burner assembly in said stand base opposite said pot assembly; and

said burner assembly including third means for elastically securing a burner cup in a burner receptacle positioned coaxially to a central axis of both said pot assembly and said stand assembly, whereby said locking fondue assembly prevents unintended separation and increases safety during a use by interlocking said pot assembly with both said stand assembly and said burner assembly.